



CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

May 23, 2007/Calendar No. 24

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N 070439HKM

IN THE MATTER OF a communication dated April 20, 2007, from the Executive Director of the Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding **the landmark designation of the exterior and the first floor interior of the Jackie Robinson (Colonial Park) Play Center Bath House** by the Landmarks Preservation Commission on April 10, 2007, (Exterior designation: List No. 390, LP 2238; First floor Interior designation: List No.390, LP 2239), located at Block 2052; Lot 1 (West 145th –West 155th streets, Bradhurst and Edgecombe avenues), Borough of Manhattan, Community District 10.

Pursuant to Section 3020.8(b) of the City Charter, the City Planning Commission shall submit to the City Council a report with respect to the relation of any designation by the Landmarks Preservation Commission, whether of a historic district or a landmark, to the Zoning Resolution, projected public improvements, and any plans for the development, growth, improvement or renewal of the area involved.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) designated The Jackie Robinson (Colonial Park) Play Center Bath House as a city landmark. The landmark designation applies to both the building's exterior and first floor interior.

The Jackie Robinson (Colonial Park) Play Center Bath House is one of a group of eleven immense outdoor swimming pools opened in the summer of 1936 in a series of grand ceremonies presided over by, then Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and Park Commissioner Robert Moses. It was constructed with funds provided by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), one of the many New Deal agencies.

The Jackie Robinson (Colonial Park) Play Center Bath House is located within the Jackie Robinson Park, which is bounded by West 145th Street to the south, West 155th Street to the

north, Bradhurst Avenue to the east and Edgecombe Avenue to the west. The subject site is flanked by residential uses along both Edgecombe and Bradhurst avenues.

The designation applies to both the exterior and the first floor interior consisting of the vaulted entry foyer and the two staircases leading to the second floor locker rooms and the fixtures and interior components of these spaces, including but not limited to, wall surfaces, floor surfaces, ceiling surfaces, doors, railings, ticket booth, bas-reliefs, signage and metal grilles. The play center bath house was designed using streamlined and curvilinear forms of the Art Moderne and Modern Classical styles. While incorporating elements of these popular styles, the Jackie Robinson Play Center has a more eclectic design with Romanesque-inspired details and bold cylindrical forms. The uniquely monumental two-story design of the Play Center Bath house exterior is matched in its grandeur by the cathedral-like vaulted interior lobby, resulting in soaring vaults of various magnitudes.

The designated landmark building is located within designated parkland. Therefore, Sections 74-79 and 74-711 of the Zoning Resolution are not applicable.

The Commission notes that since the landmark is city-owned, the Landmarks Preservation Commission would issue an advisory report rather than a permit for any proposed alteration to the building.

There are no projected public improvements or plans for development, growth, improvement or renewal in the vicinity of the landmark building.

The subject landmark designation does not conflict with the Zoning Resolution, projected public improvements or any plans for development, growth, improvement or renewal in the vicinity of the landmark.

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